Section 26.

Mr. Govinda Pillai:—I beg to propose that the following new section be inserted after this section:—

"Whoever shall be guilty of cruelty to, or neglect of, a lunatic detained under section 18, clause (2), or section 23 or 24, or of negligence in his care and control resulting in a public nuisance shall, on conviction before a Magistrate empowered under section 23, be liable to simple imprisonment for a period which may extend to one month or fine not exceeding one hundred rupees."

It is obviously necessary to provide for punishment of cruelty or negligence referred to in this section on the part of guardians.

Seconded by Mr. Nagam Aiya.

Carried.

Section 27.

Mr. Govinda Pillai:—I beg to propose that the word "dangerous" be inserted between "a" and "lunatic" in line 3.

This is only meant to make the wording precise.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Govinda Pillai:—I would propose that the numbering of the sections be altered in accordance with the amendments now adopted and that the Bill as amended be published in the Gazette for general information and taken up for final consideration on a future date of which notice shall be given.

Seconded by Mr. Ramier.

The motion was put and agreed to.

STAMP BILL.

Mr. Kesava Pillai:—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the Stamp law.

The Bill has been very carefully and critically considered by the Committee, and the Report describes the several points in which they have altered its provisions.

Most of the alterations made are of a minor character but are none the less necessary. The principal modification relates to the powers of appeal and revision proposed to be conferred on the Dewan. The Committee think that a change of the existing practice is likely to lead to needless complications and public inconvenience and they have therefore restricted the right of preferring an appeal to cases in which the parties concerned feel aggrieved by the decisions of the Peishcars as to the amounts of the duties adjudged on impounded documents. Sections 57 and 58 of the Bill have been accordingly omitted altogether and a new clause has been added to section 46.

The Committee have thought it fit to retain the present law with regard to the refund of penalty, as it is not desirable to limit the discretion of the Division Peishcar as proposed in the Bill.

Section 68 of the Bill which is also found in the existing Regulation has been omitted, because there is hardly any necessity for subjecting Vakils who infringe the Stamp Law to a special punishment in addition to what the Criminal Courts may inflict.

In a few cases, the enhancements of duties proposed to be introduced by the Bill have been given up and the amounts fixed by the existing Regulation have been

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adopted. With regard to the stamp duty on sannads for practising in Criminal Courts, a distinction has been introduced between a sannad taken for practising in all the Courts in a District and one which is confined to a single Sub-Magistrate's Court. A lower duty has been fixed on the latter.

With these few remarks, I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee together with the Bill as amended be published in the Gazette and be taken up for consideration by the Council at the next meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 5–10 P. M.

V. P. MADHAVA RAO,
President.

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